

PATENT COOPERATION TREATY

REC'D 21 DEC 2005

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From the
INTERNATIONAL SEARCHING AUTHORITY

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WRITTEN OPINION OF THE INTERNATIONAL SEARCHING AUTHORITY

(PCT Rule 43bis.1)

To:
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Date of mailing (day/month/year) **19 DEC 2005**

Applicant's or agent's file reference

FOR FURTHER ACTION
See paragraph 2 below

091395-9428

International application No.

International filing date (day/month/year)

Priority date (day/month/year)

PCT/US05/09856

24 March 2005 (24.03.2005)

25 March 2004 (25.03.2004)

International Patent Classification (IPC) or both national classification and IPC

IPC(7): F16H 13/06 and US Cl.: 475/183

Applicant

TIMKEN US CORPORATION

1. This opinion contains indications relating to the following items:

- ☒ Box No. I Basis of the opinion
- ☐ Box No. II Priority
- ☐ Box No. III Non-establishment of opinion with regard to novelty, inventive step and industrial applicability
- ☐ Box No. IV Lack of unity of invention
- ☒ Box No. V Reasoned statement under Rule 43bis.1(a)(i) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement
- ☐ Box No. VI Certain documents cited
- ☐ Box No. VII Certain defects in the international application
- ☐ Box No. VIII Certain observations on the international application

2. FURTHER ACTION

If a demand for international preliminary examination is made, this opinion will be considered to be a written opinion of the International Preliminary Examining Authority ("IPEA") except that this does not apply where the applicant chooses an Authority other than this one to be the IPEA and the chosen IPEA has notified the International Bureau under Rule 66.1bis(b) that written opinions of this International Searching Authority will not be so considered.

If this opinion is, as provided above, considered to be a written opinion of the IPEA, the applicant is invited to submit to the IPEA a written reply together, where appropriate, with amendments, before the expiration of 3 months from the date of mailing of Form PCT/ISA/220 or before the expiration of 22 months from the priority date, whichever expires later.

For further options, see Form PCT/ISA/220.

3. For further details, see notes to Form PCT/ISA/220.

Name and mailing address of the ISA/ US
Mail Stop PCT, Attn: ISA/US
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450

Facsimile No. (571) 273-3201

Date of completion of this
opinion

05 November 2005 (05.11.2005)

Authorized officer

Dirk Wright

Telephone No. 703-308-2168

WRITTEN OPINION OF THE
INTERNATIONAL SEARCHING AUTHORITY

International application No.

PCT/US05/09856

Box No. I Basis of this opinion

1. With regard to the language, this opinion has been established on the basis of:

- ☒ the international application in the language in which it was filed
- ☐ a translation of the international application into _____, which is the language of a translation furnished for the purposes of international search (Rules 12.3(a) and 23.1(b)).

2. With regard to any nucleotide and/or amino acid sequence disclosed in the international application and necessary to the claimed invention, this opinion has been established on the basis of:

a. type of material

- ☐ a sequence listing
- ☐ table(s) related to the sequence listing

b. format of material

- ☐ on paper
- ☐ in electronic form

c. time of filing/furnishing

- ☐ contained in the international application as filed.
- ☐ filed together with the international application in electronic form.
- ☐ furnished subsequently to this Authority for the purposes of search.

3. ☐ In addition, in the case that more than one version or copy of a sequence listing and/or table(s) relating thereto has been filed or furnished, the required statements that the information in the subsequent or additional copies is identical to that in the application as filed or does not go beyond the application as filed, as appropriate, were furnished.

4. Additional comments:

**WRITTEN OPINION OF THE
INTERNATIONAL SEARCHING AUTHORITY**

International application No.
PCT/US05/09856

Box No. V Reasoned statement under Rule 43 bis.1(a)(i) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement

1. Statement

Novelty (N)	Claims <u>1-20</u>	YES
	Claims <u>NONE</u>	NO
Inventive step (IS)	Claims <u>1-20</u>	YES
	Claims <u>NONE</u>	NO
Industrial applicability (IA)	Claims <u>1-20</u>	YES
	Claims <u>NONE</u>	NO

2. Citations and explanations:

Claims 1-20 meet the criteria set out in PCT Article 33(2)-(3), because the prior art does not teach or fairly suggest the claimed combination of: a steering wheel mounting assembly comprising: a stationary support carrier defining first and second ring receiving areas and being constructed and arranged to be fixed to a vehicle frame; a first drive ring having a first cylindrical raceway and being supported in the first ring receiving area and constructed and arranged for connection to a steering wheel; a second drive ring having a second cylindrical raceway and being positioned in the second ring receiving area and constructed and arranged for connection to a steering shaft, the second cylindrical raceway being concentric with the first cylindrical raceway; and a drive roller assembly supported within the first and second cylindrical raceways, the drive roller assembly comprising: first and second roller planets, each roller planet having raceways configured to engage the first and second cylindrical raceways; a sun roller supported in frictional engagement with the first and second roller planets, the sun roller being eccentric to the first and second cylindrical raceways; a first loading planet frictionally positioned between the sun roller the first cylindrical raceway; and a second loading planet frictionally positioned between the sun roller and the second cylindrical raceway.